

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 265887

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, CD, US

SUBJECT: MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO CHAD
REFS; A) STATE 116492; B) BONN 11765; C) BRUSSELS 8224;
D) PARIS 20708; E) STATE 166037

THE FOLLOWING IS A REPEAT OF STATE 167607, DTG 190036Z JUL.
77, ACTION PARIS, BONN AND BRUSSELS, INFO NDJAMENA,
TRIPOLI, RABAT, CAIRO, KHARTOUM, JIDDA, AMMAN, KINSHASA,
LIBREVILLE, TEHRAN.

1. ACTION ADDRESSEES SHOULD TAKE FIRST AVAILABLE OPPORTU-
NITY TO RAISE AT HIGH LEVEL IN HOST GOVERNMENT OUR CONCERN
REGARDING THE MILITARY SITUATION IN CHAD AND OUR DESIRE TO
FIND WAYS TO STRENGTHEN CHAD'S ABILITY TO DEAL WITH THE
SITUATION. FOR PARIS - YOU ARE AUTHORIZED TO RAISE THIS
WITH QUAI POLITICAL DIRECTOR LABOULAYE, JULY 19. FOR
BONN - YOU ARE AUTHORIZED TO RAISE THIS AT LUNCH WITH
FOREIGN MINISTER GENSCHER, JULY 19. FOR BRUSSELS - YOU
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SHOULD FIND EARLY OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE THESE POINTS.

2. YOU SHOULD DRAW ON THE FOLLOWING IN MAKING YOUR
APPROACH.

A) CHADIAN VICE PRESIDENT DJIME ARRIVED IN WASHINGTON ON
VERY SHORT NOTICE JULY 13 TO MAKE URGENT PERSONAL APPEAL

FOR MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO STRENGTHEN CHAD'S ABILITY TO DEAL WITH THE REBEL SITUATION IN TIBESTI MOUNTAINS IN THE NORTHWEST.

B) THE CHAD GOVERNMENT HAS LOST EFFECTIVE CONTROL OF THIS REGION TO TOUBOU REBELS, WHO HAVE RECEIVED ASSISTANCE IN THE FORM OF EQUIPMENT, TRAINING AND POSSIBLY TROOPS FROM LIBYA. LIBYAN TROOPS HAVE BEEN IN MILITARY OCCUPATION OF PART OF THE AREA, NOTABLY THE SETTLEMENT OF AOZOU, SINCE 1973. THE LIBYAN OBJECTIVE APPEARS TO BE EITHER OUTRIGHT ACQUISITION OF THE AREA OR THE CREATION OF A SEMI-AUTONOMOUS STATE DEPENDENT ON LIBYA.

C) IN THE LATTER PART OF JUNE, REBEL FORCES INCREASED THEIR ACTIVITIES AND CAPTURED THE SETTLEMENT OF BARDAI WITH 350 CHADIAN TROOPS AND THEIR EQUIPMENT. THIS WAS A SERIOUS BLOW TO THE CHAD ARMY. AS A RESULT, THE CHADIANS WITHDREW THEIR GARRISON AT ZOUAR, THUS RELINQUISHING CONTROL OF THE TIBESTI, AND STRENGTHENED THEIR DEFENSIVE POSITIONS AT LARGEAU AND DUNIANGA KEBIR.

D) THE CHAD VICE PRESIDENT INFORMS US THAT CHAD'S ABILITY TO MAINTAIN EFFECTIVE CONTROL OF THE NORTH OUTSIDE THE TIBESTI IS NOT CERTAIN. HE REQUESTED THE EQUIPMENT LISTED IN REF E, SAYING THIS WAS NECESSARY IN ORDER TO ALLOW CHAD TO RESUME THE OFFENSIVE.

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E) IN A MEETING JULY 15, VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE INFORMED DJIME WE WOULD ASSIST CHAD AND WOULD INFORM CHAD OF THE FORM THIS ASSISTANCE WOULD TAKE THROUGH OUR EMBASSY IN NDJAMENA.

F) WE ARE NOW EXAMINING THE VARIOUS WAYS IN WHICH WE MIGHT ASSIST CHAD. WE KNOW CHAD HAS REQUESTED HELP FROM OTHER GOVERNMENTS, INCLUDING FRANCE, THE FRG AND BELGIUM. WE WOULD PREFER TO ACT IN A MULTILATERAL CONTEXT AND BELIEVE THIS WOULD BE THE MOST EFFECTIVE WAY OF PROVIDING THE ASSISTANCE CHAD URGENTLY NEEDS.

3. FOR PARIS - YOU SHOULD CONCLUDE THE FOREGOING POINTS BY SAYING THAT WE RECOGNIZE FRANCE HAS BEEN THE PRINCIPAL SOURCE OF ASSISTANCE TO CHAD, AND THAT WE WOULD SUPPORT CONTINUED FRENCH LEADERSHIP. WE WOULD WELCOME FRENCH VIEWS ON THE BEST WAY TO COORDINATE THE ACTIONS OF CONCERNED GOVERNMENTS. IT HAD OCCURRED TO US, FOR INSTANCE, THAT THE GOF MIGHT CONVENE A MEETING IN PARIS OF THOSE CONCERNED ABOUT CHAD THAT COULD INCLUDE BOTH DEVELOPED EUROPEAN NATIONS, CONCERNED AFRICANS, AND POSSIBLY OTHERS SUCH AS

SAUDI ARABIA. SUCH A MEETING, HOWEVER, COULD ATTRACT PUB-

LICITY AND SOME INVITED GOVERNMENTS MIGHT BE RELUCTANT TO ATTEND. THUS, COORDINATED BILATERAL APPROACHES IN INTERESTED CAPITALS MIGHT BE PREFERABLE.

4. FOR BONN AND BRUSSELS - YOU SHOULD INCLUDE THE POINTS LISTED IN PARA 2 ABOVE, NOTE THAT FRANCE HAS BEEN THE PRINCIPAL SOURCE OF ASSISTANCE TO CHAD AND THAT WE ARE PREPARED TO SUPPORT A CONTINUED FRENCH LEAD IN THIS FIELD. WE WOULD WELCOME THE VIEWS OF THE GERMAN AND BELGIAN GOVERNMENTS REGARDING ASSISTANCE TO CHAD, AND THE BEST WAY TO COORDINATE THE EFFORTS OF CONCERNED GOVERNMENTS.

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5. FOR INFO ADDRESSEES - INSTRUCTIONS REGARDING A POSSIBLE APPROACH TO THESE GOVERNMENTS WILL FOLLOW WHEN WE KNOW FRENCH, GERMAN AND BELGIAN REACTION.

CHRISTOPHER

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